

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3680

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: FONMIN POSITION ON GENEVA TALKS: FONMIN COMMENTS ON
APARTHEID

SUMMARY: FONMIN FRED WILLS DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE NOVEMBER 7
GOG POSITION ON GENEVA TALKS, EMOTIONAL ISSUE OF APARTHEID TO
GUYANESE AND U.S. ABSTENTION OF TRANSKEI VOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. GENEVA TALKS. FONMIN WILLS DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE AND
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AT SOVIET NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION
TALKS GOING ON IN GENEVA BETWEEN SMITH AND BLACK NATIONALISTS
OVER MAJORITY RULE. WILLS SAID HE WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT SMITH
WILL AGREE TO THE MAJORITY RULE GUIDELINES AGREED ON BY BLACK
LEADERS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE. HE HOPED BRITISH WILL APPLY
PRESSURE TO RHODESIANS TO INSURE FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF TALKS
TO BLACK NATIONALISTS. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT
UNDERSTAND WHY PRESS IN U.S. WAS NOW REFERRING TO
SMITH AS PRIME MINISTER INSTEAD OF "REBEL SMITH."

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CHARGE REPLIED THIS WAS PROBABLY A MATTER OF

SEMANTICS. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER THEN INTERJECTED THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IS THAT BLACK NATIONALISTS CANNOT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES WHICH ONLY MADE TALKS MORE DIFFICULT. WILLS AGREED BUT SAID SMITH IS A VERY CANNY POLITICIAN WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO DELAY AND OBFUSCATE IN HOPES TALKS WILL FAIL. SMITH WILL THEN HOPE USG AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL THEN SUPPORT HIM. CHARGE COUNTERED THAT POSITION OF USG ON BLACK MAJORITY RULE FOR RHODESIA WELL KNOWN AND WILLS SHOULD NOT ASSUME USG WILL PULL SMITH'S CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE. CHARGE ASSERTED THAT USG WITH BRITISH HELP WAS ONLY POWER THAT COULD BRING DISPUTANTS TO CONFERENCE TABLE FOR WHICH GOG COULD THANK SECRETARY KISSINGER. WILLS AGREED AND THEN CHANGED SUBJECT TO UN TRANSKEI VOTE.

2. WILLS SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND USG ABSTENTION ON VOTE IN UN OVER TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE. HE CONTINUED U.S. WOULD HAVE WON MUCH FAVOR IN THIRD WORLD BUT AS USUAL "WE BLEW IT AGAIN." CHARGE COUNTERED THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF REASON FOR ABSTENTION HE THOUGHT IT CONCERNED WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION. CHARGE CONTINUED THAT U.S. POSITION ON TRANSKEI CLEAR. WE HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED TRANSKEI AS INDEPENDENT STATE AND THAT WAS THE IMPORTANT ISSUE.

3. WILLS THEN WENT ON TO SUBJECT OF APARTHEID. HE SAID THE FOUR MOST ASTUTE POLITICAL LEADERS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WERE SADAT, NYERERE, SMITH AND VORSTER. IN PARTICULAR HE THOUGHT VORSTER IS AN EXTREMELY CAPABLE AND WILY LEADER. WILLS IS CONVINCED VORSTER WILL SOMEHOW ARRANGE TO COME OUT OF THIS ENTIRE SITUATION WITH APARTHEID IN TACT IN SOUTH AFRICA. WILLS SAID THAT DIPLOMATS IN GUYANA SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW EMOTIONALLY THE GUYANESE WERE TIED TO BLACK SOUTHERN AFRICANS OVER THE ISSUE OF APARTHEID. WILLS CONTINUED THIS WAS BECAUSE BLACKS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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BROUGHT AS SLAVES TO GUYANA AND BOTH BLACKS AND EAST INDIANS WERE ECONOMICALLY REPRESSSK AND EXPLOITED BY SUGAR BARONS IN COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT GUYANA TAKES SUCH A STRONG STAND ON ISSUE OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE, INDPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA AND BLACKS RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. CHARGE AND BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER BOTH REPLIED THAT WE WERE

WELL AWARE OF GUYANA'S EMPATHY TOWARD THE SOUTHERN AFRICANS. CHARGE CONTINUED THAT AGAIN OUR POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN ON DOCTRINE OF APARTHEID AND INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA. CHARGE CONTINUED THEME MENTIONED PARA 1 THAT IT WAS THE INFLUENCE OF USG ON VORSTER AND SOUTH AFRICANS THAT HAS TRIGGERED MOVEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA. FURTHER THE POSITION OF USG IS WELL KNOWN ON SUBJECT OF APARTHEID. WILLS DEMURED AND SAID TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT ON SUPPORT OF JOSHUA NKOMO BOTH BRITAIN AND SOVIET UNION APPEARED TO SUPPORT HIM AT THE SAME TIME. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: NONE OF THE ABOVE IS PARTICULARLY SURPRISING SINCE GOG HAS LONG BEEN VOCAL ADVOCATE OF BLACK RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER WILLS' CHARACTERIZATION OF SMITH AND VORSTER IS INTERESTING SINCE IT SHOWS AN APPARENT FEAR ON THE PART OF THE GOG THAT SOMEHOW BLACK NATIONALIST AIMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL BE THWARTED AND THAT USG WILL BE PUT IN POSITION OF SUPPORTING WHITE MINORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. AT LEAST WILLS DID NOT REITERATE HIS CLAIM REPORTED EARLIER THAT GENEVA TALKS WERE A FRAUD SINCE HE MUST NOW REALIZE THEY ARE THE MAJOR HOPE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ENTIRE PROBLEM.
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